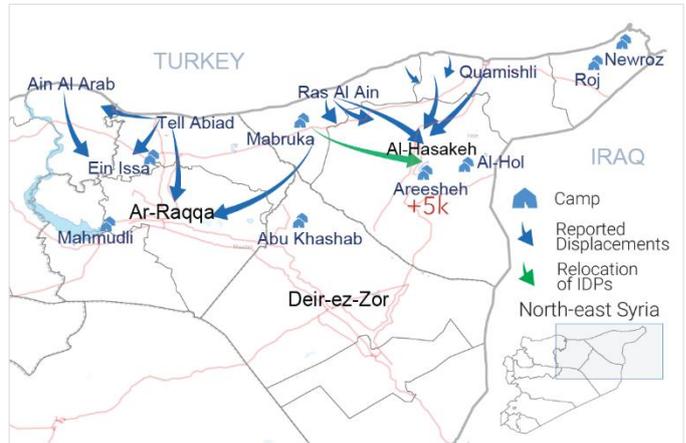


*\*This update is compiled with inputs from different sources, reflecting developments as they unfold and/or as they are reported to OCHA Syria. The situation on the ground is fluid and volatile. While striving to be as comprehensive as possible, information in this update, especially with regards to numbers of displaced people and civilian casualties, is susceptible to revisions as further information becomes available.*

## Highlights

- Ongoing airstrikes and ground attacks continue being reported in multiple locations as the offensive towards Tell Abiad and Ras al-Ain cities continues. At the time of reporting, the Turkish Government announced the control of Rasal-Ain city.
- Significant further displacements continue being reported from rural areas around Tell Abiad and Ras al-Ain, with current estimates currently surpassing 130,000 people – exact numbers cannot yet be ascertained.
- The water situation in Al-Hassakeh city and its surroundings is rapidly deteriorating, and becoming critical, as technical teams are yet to be able to access the site to repair the damage. The United Nations continues to advocate with relevant parties to facilitate access to repair the power line and restore the water supply. Over 400,000 people are affected by the suspension in the provision of water, including some 82,000 camp residents of Al Hol and Areesha, the latter is currently also hosting the majority of IDPs that arrived in the past two days from Mabrouka camp.
- The relocation from Mabrouka IDP camp – some 5,033 people – which started at midday on 11 October, was almost completed by midday the following day. At the time of reporting, all Mabrouka residents had arrived at Areesha camp with the exception of 50 families who remain at Mabrouka unable to depart due to ongoing hostilities.
- Public and private hospitals in Ras Al Ain and Tell Abiad closed on 11 October, with news that local authorities in Tell Abiad moved all hospital equipment. At the time of reporting, information was received of an attack on a trauma stabilization point south of Ras al-Ain. The point had been temporarily set up to support those injured coming from the frontlines of the conflict.
- A growing number of partners are mobilizing response efforts at the estimated 33 collective shelters identified so far in Ar-Raqqa city (1 shelter), Al-Hasakeh city (14 shelters), and Al-Tamr (18 shelters).
- As the military operation continues, prior planning figures with regards to displacement have been surpassed – the United Nations and its humanitarian partners are considering a new planning figure of up to 400,000 civilians that may require assistance and protection in the coming period.
- The United Nations and its humanitarian partners are increasingly concerned about the security of their staff present on the ground.



## Situation overview

Since the start of the Turkish military operation in the afternoon of 9 October, there have continuing reports of intense shelling and airstrikes along the north-east Syrian border, from the Euphrates to the Turkish/Syrian/Iraqi border.

As of noon of 12 October, airstrikes, heavy artillery shelling and ground incursions reportedly took place in multiple locations as the offensive continued close to 30 kilometers south of the border. On 12 October, Turkish Armed forces reportedly took control of Ras al-Ain and surrounding suburbs/outskirts of both Tell Abiad and Ras al-Ain cities. Latest reports received at the time of reporting indicate at least 15 villages in rural Tell Abiad, north rural Ar-Raqqa, shifted control as the offensive continues. Also, in the early hours of 12 October, an offensive was reportedly launched in the Mabrouka area, 30 kilometers west of Ras al-Ain.

On 11 October, an explosion occurred in Mounir Habib neighbourhood, Qamishli city, with reports of casualties and injuries. The neighbourhood is some 400 meters west of the UN hub in Qamishli. Another 11 explosions were heard in Qamishli city in the evening of 11 October.

At the time of reporting, information was received of an attack on a trauma stabilization point south of Ras al-Ain. The point had been temporarily set up to support those injured coming from the frontlines of the conflict. Reportedly, two staff were injured in the attack and two ambulances were damaged. The point was evacuated and patients receiving treatment at the time of the attack have been transferred to nearby hospitals.

In turkey there have been media reports of civilians, including children being killed and injured.

## Humanitarian impact

The full humanitarian impact of the current military operation remains difficult to ascertain as the situation remains volatile. As of 11 October, population movements from both Ras al-Ain and Tell Abiad, particularly the surrounding rural areas, were increasing. At the time of reporting, an estimated 130,000 people were reportedly displaced with additional indications of people on the move. Exact figures are not yet available. Protection actors reported that civilians from Ras al-Ain were not allowed to relocate with their belongings.

Most displaced people have reached relatives or host communities. Increasing numbers of people continue to arrive at collective shelters in Al-Hassakeh city, Tal Amr and Ar-Raqqa city. Schools are being used as collective centres – as of 11 October, 14 schools are being used as collective shelters in Al-Hassakeh city, already hosting 3,500 displaced; while one school in Ar-Raqqa city and 18 schools in Tal Amar are hosting an unspecified number of IDPs. Needs assessments and response efforts are ongoing.

In terms of general displacement patterns the following has so far been reported:

- Most of the 18,000 people living in Tell Abiad town and 11,000 people living in Ras al Ain having reportedly left towards Tal Tamer and Hassakeh city.
- Most residents of Tell Abiad towards Ein Issa and Ar-Raqqa.
- Most of the 40,000 people living in Kobane town having reportedly displaced both to surrounding villages and towards Ein Issa.
- Qamishli city (especially northern areas) towards the south of city and suburbs as well as towards Al-Hassakeh and Malakiyeh.
- Menbij, away from border areas further south and a small flow out of the northeast
- Darbasiyeh towards Tal Tamr and Al-Hassakeh city.

### Protection of civilians

The military attacks, violence and access constraints continue to pose serious protection concerns for the affected population, including in respect to IHL.

Humanitarian organisations are faced with serious limitations where law and order has been seriously impacted and general insecurity prevails. In order for protection actors to mount an effective response, it is critical that parties to the conflict show a willingness to cease hostilities, respect their IHL obligations and minimize constraints on people's access to protection and assistance.

### Situation at Mabrouka and Ein Issa IDP camps

The evacuation of Mabrouka camp's residents – some 5,033 people – began at midday on 11 October and was completed by midday 12 October, with almost all residents transferred to the Areesha camp, already hosting some 8,600 people. The evacuation was initiated due to security concerns as mortars reportedly landed close to the camp. At the time of reporting, 50 families remain at Mabrouka unable to depart due to ongoing hostilities.

Arrivals in Areesha are being accommodated in large-sized tents and/or collective communal tents as emergency shelter partners are preparing to provide family-sized tents. The situation at Areesha is likely to become critical as camp services and infrastructure remain affected by flooding from last year and a planned relocation was due to move populations from areas of risk. Contrary to previous reports, protection actors have informed that camp authorities in Mabrouka imposed the relocation to Areesha with no option to go to the areas of origin or other place of choice.

Several humanitarian partners continue to deploy assistance efforts in Areesha camp, also catering for new arrivals. One partner was asked to send reproductive health and gender-based violence teams to the camp to continue providing services and support to the population, including for the newly arrived from Mabrouka. Ready to Eat rations (RTEs) are set to be delivered today and general food distribution is planned for later this month.

At Ein Issa camp in Ar-Raqqa governorate, food security and NFI/shelter partners are coordinating to start the distribution of both food and non-food items today.

### Impact on civilian infrastructure

The water situation in Al-Hassakeh city and its surroundings is deteriorating rapidly. Technical teams have not yet been able to access the Allouk water station to repair the power line to restore water supply to the area, servicing over 400,000 people. A large area is entirely reliant on the Allouk water supply – in addition to Al-Hassakeh city, which has reportedly witnessed the influx of some 60,000 IDPs over the last three days, the residents of Al Hol, Mabrouka and Areesha camps, with a combined population of some 82,000 people, are also dependent on this water supply. The United Nations continues to advocate for a technical team to access the water station to make the necessary repairs.

Residents are at risk of having to resort to unsafe water sources. In an effort to respond to the needs, local authorities have mobilized water trucking to the area and residents with access to boreholes are sharing their water resources. Disrupted water networks put populations at high risk of outbreaks of epidemic-prone diseases, particularly waterborne illnesses, such as acute diarrhea and typhoid, ranking number one and three respectively among the top morbidities reported to the Early Warning, Alert and Response System sentinel sites in August. Limited water supply also impacts hygiene and can give rise to skin diseases, such as lice and scabies, particularly in over-crowded conditions.

Since 9 October, markets, schools and clinics in Ras al-Ain remain closed and a curfew remains in place. The National Hospital, operational until 11 October, is now closed. Another three private hospitals are also closed as most of the medical staff is being mobilized to Tal Tamr town and/or Al-Hassakeh city to treat emergency cases.

The national hospital in Tell Abiad town was evacuated – patients were transferred to Ein Issa town, alongside with the necessary equipment. An INGO operating at the hospital and national employees also left and moved to Ar-Raqqa city. Since late on 11 October, water and electricity in Tell Abiad remains unavailable. Following a temporarily two-day closure, Qamishli airport reopened and health partners airlifted vaccines and medical supplies.

Additional reports seem to indicate reduced water flows affecting hydro-electric dams in Tabqa and Tishrine. People in Tell Abiad city are reportedly experiencing food shortages as bakeries closed.

## Humanitarian response and coordination

On 10 October, humanitarian teams conducted multi-sectoral needs assessments in areas where displaced people arrived to identify priority needs and respond. Humanitarian partners continued to implement humanitarian activities and programming across accessible areas, and are mobilizing to respond to the emerging needs.

As many INGOs operating in the northeast have their main bases in proximity of the affected areas, most have had to immediately suspend activities in those areas. In areas such as Ar-Raqqa city, Deir-Ez-Zor and Tabqa, many activities continue, including the provision of essential services, such as health, bread distribution and water trucking, and restoring water stations. At all camps, essential activities also continue, although specialized services have been affected and referral capacity has reduced. There are limited activities in border areas (life-saving health only in Tell Abiad and Ras Al ain), and primarily emergency response in Hassakeh and Ein Issa. Over 10 and 11 October, NGOs operating in northeast Syria have resumed activities as well as assisting the new arrivals – partners strive to minimize disruptions.

The UN continues to work with all counterparts on the ground to facilitate the humanitarian response. All parties in the area have committed to facilitate and provide all the necessary support to the UN and its humanitarian partners to continue implementing the humanitarian and emergency response.

### Readiness planning

Given the rapidly unfolding situation on the ground, humanitarian planning figures are being revised upwards with new estimates of 400,000 people that could require humanitarian assistance over the coming period. Should the military offensive further escalate, or areas swiftly shift control, concerns remain grave around the risks facing thousands of vulnerable displaced persons, including women and children in various IDP camps, such as in Al Hol, estimated to host some 68,600 IDPs.

Sectors are reviewing available resources and capacities that could be made available, including with regards to prepositioned stock, warehouse capacity and supply routes.

## Safety and security of humanitarian workers

The UN and partners are increasingly concerned about the safety and security of hundreds of UN and INGO staff. There are an estimated 113 humanitarian partners operating in the area from within Syria. In addition, 30 cross border INGOs are operating in the northeast, with 250 international staff. The UN has 134 staff [124 national staff and 10 international UN staff in Qamishli]. Currently, 18 out of 25 NGOs maintain international staff in northeast Syria, albeit with reductions to essential staff. The total number of international staff has reduced to 200, from normal levels of 384. Notably, of the 8 NGOs who have evacuated all international staff, 7 are continuing operations remotely.

Humanitarian actors are committed to stay and deliver for people in need, requiring require all parties to ensure both aid workers, and all civilians, are protected.

## Sector Response

*\*With information available at the time of reporting, i.e. inputs not fully capturing all planned and ongoing response, or gaps, on the ground.*



Protection

### Needs:

- Protection partners are conducting assessments in communal shelters. So far assessments have reached 11 communal shelters in Alhassakeh and give communal shelters in Tal Tamer, with assessments ongoing. Many families have reportedly settled with the host communities and their needs will be assessed.
- Immediate protection operational needs identified include civil documentation (IDPs have left left homes without documents and other belongings), family separation, psychological first aid/PSS and dignity kits
- UNICEF implementing partners Al Mawaada today conducted a rapid child protection assessment in the 9 communal shelters in Al Hasakeh city and identified 13 (3 boys and 10 girls) separated children who are currently under spontaneous foster care arrangements. Partners continues to monitor and document the children for further assistance through case management.
- The situation in Ein Eisa is being monitored with possibility of evacuation
- The situation in Menbij and Tal al Faat is also being monitored closely in case of possible population movements.

### Response

- Protection partners continue to supported Community Centres – both static and mobile across all IDP sites. Similar efforts are being deployed in host communities receiving IDPs. Support provided includes awareness, psychosocial support; child protection; GBV support and case management, informal education, assistance for persons with specific needs, legal assistance); specialised services for children and women/girls are also provided. In addition, protection partners are carrying out regular consultations with affected people through mobile teams (CP and GBV) outreach volunteers (ORVs) to understand the protection needs in IDP hosting areas and conduct rapid needs assessments, identification of persons with specific needs, case management and referrals.
- All protection, CP and GBV actors have mobilized to receive and provide protection services to the IDPs relocated from Mabruka camp to Aresha. There are some concerns of voluntariness of the relocation, IDP were not able to move to the locations of their choice, take all their belongings and retrieve their IDs
- A child protection partner is currently hosting 24 unaccompanied children in Ein Eissa camp interim care centre and continues to provide services for them
- Partners are increasing their reach and capacity as well as resupplying the area to meet growing needs.



Food Security

### Response (ongoing and planned)

- A sector partner dispatched RTEs sufficient for some 16,000 people who have reached the main locations of displacement, including to Tal Tamr as one of the main areas of arrival. Distributions was ongoing as of 6PM this evening, with five collective shelters reached.

- Regular general food assistance (GFA) is running normally, although at a slower pace. The October GFA dispatch cycle is ongoing, with food rations sufficient for 92,000 people. Many of the regular GFA beneficiaries are now hosting people displaced by the current military operation.
- Based on findings from a rapid market assessment, the current situation seems to have negatively affected the markets across Al-Hassakeh governorate, especially those in cities located close to the border and to cities where the IDPs are arriving.
- According to key informants in both Al-Hassakeh and Quamishli cities, the current situation is affecting the availability and accessibility of bread and other main commodities due to the closure of bakeries, stockpiling, limited movement of transporters and traders, and an increase in the informal exchange rate – sector partners are reviewing the best possible way to support the IDPs.
- WFP in northeast Syria has the capacity to reach 245,000 people with one round of RTEs and has stocks for 200,000 additional people that can be prioritized from other locations in country if needed; production is ongoing.



## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

### Needs and gaps

- The Alouk Water Station which serves Al Hassakeh city and other areas was not operational today. Al-Hassakeh city is using underground storage reservoirs, deemed to be adequate for few days only. Alternative sources of water are shallow wells inside the city that could be utilized for mass production of water provided ten submersible pumps are rapidly installed. An assessment of Al Himme water pumping station revealed that the city could be served from there with an estimated storage capacity of 300,000 m<sup>3</sup>.
- On 11 October, a sector partner monitoring team conducted a rapid inter-sectoral needs assessment in 16 collective shelters in Hasakeh city hosting 345 HHs (1,634 ind including 351 children)
- WASH needs remain acute among IDPs sheltered at the collective centres. Access to water and adequate sanitation are particularly critical, with gaps reported at both Tal Tamer and Al-Hassakeh, for example, at some collective centres there are up to 180 people sharing one latrine.

### Response (ongoing and planned)

- One NGO began trucking water in Al-Hassakeh with 15 trucks, each undertaking ten trips per day. Two sector partners are planning to install water tanks in Al- Hassakeh city and expand water trucking activities. Depending on the needs in collective centres, the same NGO is considering scaling-up ongoing water trucking activities in Ar-Raqqa city.
- Three NGOs are initiating coordinated WASH interventions in all identified collective centres in Al-Hassakeh and Tal Tamr.
- Soap and washing powder distributions in various locations hosting displaced people were initiated on 10 October targeting 200 households, approximately 1,000 individuals.
- Hygiene kits for 10,000 households are en route Qamishli. Another 35,000 kits are in the pipeline.
- Water disinfection products, such as liquid chlorine, were delivered earlier this month to Ar-Raqqa; an additional 75 metric tons may be required over the next three months. Close to 9,000 packs of water disinfectant products for households' water tanks are available in stock.



## Health

### Needs and gaps

- Health actors are continuing operations and scaling up to respond to the emergency. Although civilian casualties are reportedly relatively low, hospitals are under increasing strain. Since the start of the military operation, there have been 30 trauma surgeries in Tal Tamr. With Ras al-Ain hospital out of service, its proximity to the frontline and large number of IDP arrivals, Tal Tamr hospital has been under particular strain with increasingly cases reportedly being referred to Al-Hassakeh hospitals (Hassakeh National Hospital and Al Hikma).
- Health facilities in the west are also under considerable strain, with Kobane hospital reportedly having received 20 emergency cases since 9 October, largely admitted from Tell Abiad city and rural Kobane. There is normal functionality and regular services are running in Ar-Raqqa and Menbij hospitals, with partners ready to provide additional supplies and support as necessary.
- In Ein Issa, partners continue to note the need for additional medical items and supplies, with plans to assess additional staffing requirements.

**Response (ongoing and planned)**

- One NGO has finalized the allocation of ambulances and three are currently stationed at Tell Abiad.
- Three NGOs have established a medical operations centre in Tal Tamr to oversee the emergency health response, prioritize needs/cases and facilitate referral. At the same time, these NGO have strengthened the capacity of Tal Tamr hospital through the establishment of a blood bank, the deployment of eight additional nurses and increased the surgical capacity through the deployment of a surgeon, a theatre nurse and an anesthetist).
- There are plans to support trauma stabilization and referral in Ein Issa hospital in anticipation of increased trauma cases, while assessments are being launched in the Al-Hassakeh hospitals to identify additional support that may be required.
- UNICEF Qamishli warehouse has adequate health and nutrition supplies for 50,000 children for one month and 10,000 women for two months. Additional nutrition supplies sufficient for 35,000 children for one month and 10,000 women for 2 months are in the pipeline. Nutrition stock are also available for preventable and therapeutic treatment at a partners' warehouse adequate for 10,000 children and 4,000 women for one month.

**Nutrition**

- MUAC screening was conducted for 48 children in the collective centers through partners on 12 October. No SAM or MAM cases were reported. Families with children under 5 years received high energy biscuits with a total of 400 families receiving these in the collective shelters on 12 October.
- Reports of diarrhea among children under 5 were received from one of the collective shelters with 12 patients seen and treated. Primary health care consultations were conducted by partners in the shelters in Hasakeh today and reached 315 women and children.

**Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs)****Needs and gaps**

- The availability of available plots at camps is extremely limited – should there be additional movements to camps, there is a risk of overcrowding.
- Cooking gas and heating fuel is anticipated to be a need.

**Response (ongoing and planned)**

- NFIs have been dispatched to Tal Tamer, with distribution commencing today
- Support to displaced families living in collective centres or urban locations is being provided. 600 available kits in Qamishli and 1,000 in Damascus that can be deployed;
- Winterisation response is planned for the next two weeks, initially covering approximately 30,000 families. Response over the last three days already covered 9,700 individuals mainly from Mabrouka, Ain Essa and Mahmoudli camps and 5,000 individuals in Tal Tamer with NFIs.
- Tents are available on the ground to respond to 4,750 households in Qamishli and 3,090 households in Aleppo. Capacity to respond to another 4,960 households is in the pipeline. One INGO partner has capacity to provide 500 tents to new arrivals at Areesha camp.
- For core non-food items, the current stock is sufficient to immediately assist 8,000 households with a full set of core NFIs.
- 11,550 winter clothing children kits are available and there is capacity to provide for an additional 4,000 households with winter cash.

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